



**City of Lemon Grove**  
**Community Advisory Commission**

**MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 6:00 p.m.  
Lemon Grove Community Center  
3146 School Lane, Lemon Grove, CA

1. Call to Order – Chair Jay Bass called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Julie Russo was absent.
  - a. Permanent Members:
    - i. Chair - Jay Bass
    - ii. Vice Chair - Aaron Pratts
    - iii. Member - Carol Weiss
  - b. Ad-hoc Members:
    - i. Member - Jessyka Heredia
    - ii. Member - Julie Russo – Absent
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Finance Manager Joseph Ware led the pledge of allegiance.
3. Review and Approve Minutes from March 14, 2022 regular meeting.
  - a. Member Carol Weiss made a motion to approve the minutes as is. The motion was seconded by Aaron Pratts.
  - b. The motion was unanimously approved.
4. General Fund Revenue estimates and projections for 2022/23 were presented by Interim Administrative Services Director Rod Greek.
  - a. Finance Manager Joseph Ware emphasized that all revenue figures presented were only preliminary and would be adjusted as more current economic indicators became available.
  - b. Mr. Geek explained the primary and secondary revenue sources and used multiple graphs to demonstrate how the revenues are trending upward over the next three (3) years
  - c. Finance Manager Joseph Ware reminded the committee members that the trend is based on data received from our consultants and that the data is a best estimate based on the available economic indicators at that moment in time.
  - d. City Manager Lydia Romero explained the types of Property Tax revenues and informed the committee members how the assessed values change, both residential and commercial, when a property is sold. Until sold, properties

remain at their current value, so revenues rates are static unless the property is sold.

- e. Mr. Ware explained to the committee that most recent economic and global impacts were not reflected in the current projections, as those indicators could take two to three quarters to present themselves. When those indicators are realized, the projected revenues would be adjusted and the committee would receive the updated projections at the meeting following those revisions.
- f. Committee members asked questions to clarify their understanding of the information presented. City staff was able to answer all questions and provide clarity to the committee members.

5. Public Safety Draft Budget Requests were presented by city staff.

- a. Agenda item 5c was discussed out of order, with the approval of the committee. Mr. Geek presented the expenditures for the current fiscal year and the projected expenditure costs through the end of year for the Lemon Grove Fire Department.
- b. Mr. Ware presented the projected expenditures for the next fiscal year. In this portion, Mr. Ware explained that the salaries for next fiscal year appear lower; however, that is due to restructuring cost presented by removing the Heartland Fire Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) contract costs from salaries and presenting them in their own category.
  - i. Additionally it was noted by Mr. Ware that the non-salary costs remained relatively flat, as those costs fluctuate only from the economic impacts that may cause a minor change in those figures.
  - ii. Fire Chief Swaney explained the on-going equipment costs and how those costs are higher than similar non-emergency equipment due to federal and state public safety regulations and replacement requirements.
- c. Chief Swaney presented the Fire Department's expenditure requests.
  - iii. Most all items requested are those that have been deferred for the past three or more budget years. He advised that the equipment in this year's replacement request is or has exceeded its normal life cycle. While they have been able to keep it in service with extensive maintenance, that option is quickly losing its effectiveness.
  - iv. Chief Swaney explained that they have been able to obtain grants for some equipment; however, this has only been successful for minor purchases. Larger grant requests, as in the case of a new fire truck, are nationwide competitive grants and the City of Lemon Grove has been denied multiple times. The fire truck is more than 15 years past its normal life cycle and maintenance costs are growing with down time being extended.
  - v. It was noted that the Stryker request is an ongoing cost, as a contract was signed recently and could be removed from the request list.

- vi. Questions were asked regarding used fire truck purchase were discussed with Chief Sweeny. Chief Swaney explained that used trucks are not readily available and like a used car, the City would inherit all the maintenance costs similar to the current situation.
  - vii. Manager Romero clarified the deferment situation from the past years and how the Fire Department has sought alternatives and endured increased maintenance to keep current equipment in service.
  - viii. Chairman Bass expressed his appreciation to the Fire Department for their participation in civic events and their continued commitment to the community.
  - ix. The committee members asked additional clarifying question on the Fire Department expenditures and requests. Chief Sweeny and city staff provided the information the members requested.
- d. Mr. Ware and Manager Romero presented the Law Enforcement projected expenditures for current and next fiscal years.
- x. Mr. Ware explained that the Law Enforcement component was primarily contracted services that had annual escalators of 1% in FY23 and 24, the 3.5% in FY 25, 26, and 27. This contract will go to City Council for approval in April.
  - xi. Mr. Ware also explained that the contract rate is set and that it would only fluctuate if there was a City request for a change in service. In this fiscal year, the City is requesting a Motorcycle traffic officer be added at a cost of approximately \$233, 000 per year. This cost is inclusive of all salary, fringe, vehicle, equipment, and overhead costs.
  - xii. Manager Romero advised the committee of the pilot program used this past year and how this single officer was able to assist in mitigating speed issues and improve safety in the residential areas, as the current traffic officers are spending a majority of time on three to four high traffic and high accident areas in the main traffic flows. Additionally, this new motor office would not be subject to use on other criminal calls, as they are dedicated to traffic only. Manager Romero also explained what the City receives in services in contract with the San Diego County Sheriff's Office.
  - xiii. Mr. Ware presented the current and next year projected costs for animal control services. These are contracted services and fluctuate based on call volume. Member Pratts requested call volumes for animal control. Manager Romero advised that City staff will compile and provide that information to the committee as soon as possible. Manager Romero discussed the full service of the animal control contract. She explained that the service is not just picking up animals and writing citations. The City is required to pay the cost of the animals' veterinary care, food, shelter, and ancillary expenses. She also explained that on the other side,

any fees collected from residents through the animal control office are received by the City as a credit on the monthly service invoice.

- xiv. Manager Romero provided the committee members with an overview of the Communications costs. She explained how the county wide radio system connects all law enforcement agencies, city services, and disaster response teams on a single communications system for continuity of response and coordinated communications during a disaster or mutual aid requirements.
- xv. The committee member asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation and City staff provided the requested information with a single need to provide animal control call volume report to the committee.

#### 6. Next Steps

- a. Manager Romero explained that once all General Fund revenue and projections were presented, a report with those requests will be combined with the Mayor and Council goals for the next fiscal year and will be provided to the committee. At that time, it is requested that the committee make a recommendation to the City Council on those items the committee deems should be funded or not funded. Then further detail those items to be funded in a ranked order of priority for funding.
- b. Chair Bass advised the next scheduled meeting is May 10, 2022. He expressed that the remaining information and work required might dictate an additional meeting. The committee had consensus on seeing where they stood on their work requirements at the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and then decide if an additional meeting is required.
- c. Chair Bass requested city staff to present them, prior to the next meeting, a timeline and expected deliverables so the committee could prepare and have the information needed to determine if an additional meeting will be needed.

#### 7. Public Comment *(Note: In accordance with State Law, the general public may bring forward an item not scheduled on the agenda; however, the Community Advisory Commission may not take any action at this meeting. If appropriate, the item will be referred to staff or placed on a future agenda.)*

- a. Manager Romero made a call to the public
- b. No comment cards were received.

#### 8. Adjournment

- e. Chair Jay Bass Adjourned the meeting at 8:32pm